

THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

A monthly bulletin of matters of interest to the
Sydney Bushwalker, The N.S.W. Nurses' Association
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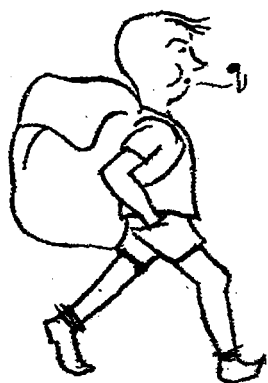
JUNE 1963

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Hi,

Our sub-committee on club finances has not been idle and has given a lot of thought to the several problems engaging their attention. It seems reasonable to assume that we can expect an early announcement from the chair summarising their deliberations to date and possibly recommending some lines of action.

Bushwalkers are a lousy lot, myself included, and would rather walk a hundred miles than spend two bob. But we should be ready to accept any such recommendations as may come from the chair as they represent the considered opinions of well qualified people that we have elected to do our dirty work for us. General meetings tend to be a bit unwieldy in arriving at decisions (particularly concerning money) and committee working provides the most efficient solution of problems of this kind, provided always, of course, that the body of members retains its confidence in the committee they have elected. If they don't, then a new committee should be elected.

I think we can expect some move on the Era Funds which have been languishing in bonds for years past. Seeing that we can only buy land with this money, and some considerable effort will be required to locate a suitable tract, it would not be unreasonable for each of us to be asked to put in some time, and miles, looking around. "Land-search" walks may become the new vogue, and walkers may have to learn a little more about the exact title of land through which they walk, if they are to make an intelligent appraisal of any area that takes their fancy. It would be optimistic to expect to buy anything suitable for £500 and when the ideal area is unearthed, it may well be that we have to raise some more cash to purchase it. The original money for Era was raised by subscriptions from walkers and I, for one, am confident that we could repeat the performance when the situation demands it. Of course, we would all expect the Committee to lead the way and set a good example in such a crisis.

The yearly club-subscriptions may well rear up again, as I fail to see how we can battle along at our present rates for much longer. To join a golf club, for example, would cost you ten times as much as we pay. With a bit more money in hand there are a lot of things a Committee could do to improve our club, a modern up-to-date library being just one.

With all their deliberations, I hope the £100 for a new typewriter for the magazine has not been overlooked. Patchy reproduction in the magazine is only due, we assure you, to the worn out keys on our present machine, which is in worse condition than your Editor.

SB.

AT THE MAY MEETING.

Jim Brown

Up to the present stage of this year, the Club's new members appear to be distinguished for their bashfulness - or is it that they are determined nothing will be pinned on them? At all events, on the evening of May 8, they weren't there. After reading and endorsement of the minutes the President announced that, because of pressure of business, the May Committee meeting had not advanced with the Library proposals. Further, the special meeting arranged for possible "junior" members had been thwarted - by a total absence of the juniors.

Out of correspondence came a letter from Tom Moppett telling us one of the members of the Fauna Protection Panel was retiring on account of age, and he commended to us Allan Fox, a foundation member of N.P.A. and one time Caloola Club member as our nomination. A regular procession of members agreed that Allan Fox would be a very worthy representative of the conservation bodies, and we voted accordingly.

The President referred to the ding-dong between the Snowy Mountains Authority and the Kosciuszko State Park Trust, and said, as it seemed certain to become a political football, the Committee recommended that we write to Senator Spooner in protest, or Sir Garfield Barwick (as a member of the Trust) in support of preservation of the primitive area at the Summit. It was suggested that the letters from the Club be signed by as many members as possible. Alex Colley felt our letters should answer a question that was bound to arise - why the State Government, in spite of representations, had neglected to proclaim the primitive area until work on the Summit had commenced. Jim Brown said the Club's attitude had been consistent, and he could not see why the Club should attempt to explain why the State Government had or had not taken certain action. He moved endorsement of Committee's recommendation. Reg Meakins read from correspondence he had conducted with Mr. Monaghan, pointing out that the works in the Primitive area would not add to water storage and only a minute amount to electricity generation. The President pointed out that conservation bodies had urged the deduction of a Primitive Area for years past and Alex Colley said the Club's letter should make this quite clear. The Committee's recommendations were then adopted and the President said the letters would be brought in for members signatures at the next Club night.

Correspondence was not yet finished - a letter from Snow Brown and signed by a group of members asked for the reading of the Walks Report to be resumed and suggested that leaders of walks might be asked to narrate the tale of their trips to meetings. Frank Ashdown was again it - a business meeting should be a business meeting. If leaders were to bash our lugs it should be after business was over. Kath Brown moved that we revert to the old drill and read the Walks Report. Bill Burke was not sure whether the Report was business or entertainment. Jack Wren didn't wish to hear long

lists of statistics of the numbers on walks. Frank Ashdown said he was for the motion, but not the added talking proposed in the letter. Snow said the telling of the story by leaders worked well in other Clubs he had visited, and he felt it was worth a trial, but realised that was outside the terms of the motion. Bob Godfrey was dismayed that we could change our minds so quickly, but Eddie Stretton felt we should hear about walking activity, the most important aspect of the Club. After which we carried the motion.

The first statistics of the evening followed instantly with the Treasurer telling us our cash in hand had increased from £185 to £215 on the month's trading. Subscriptions to the tune of £54 had helped it along.

So to the Walks Report, which first included two belatedly received reports from March, both to do with the Royal Tour Holiday of 2-3-4 March. Bob Godfrey had a party of 8 on a canoe jaunt on Fish River, which was too shallow for good boating. (Bob complained of a female bow-man who didn't even notice when he went over into the drink). A party which owed to no leadership went to Wee Jasper Caves. The eight members explored the Dip Cave involving a 60 ft descent on wire ladders, and reported some good formations. The party swam in the Goodradigbee river - a good trout stream but infested with liver fluke, necessitating boiling.

Coming to April, Dot Butler with 6 members, 3 prospectives and 4 visitors covered two day trips on 5-6th April. The Saturday jaunt was Kanangra Gorge, Murdering Gully, Kanangra and Sunday was Oldham's Selection, Whalanina Chasm. Dot explained that the climbs are best measured in hours rather than miles, since only about 12 miles were covered, but total descent and climbs of over 5,000 ft were concerned. On the same week-end John Luxton led 8 members and 1 prospective from Katoomba via Scenic Railway, Ruined Castle, (exploration of Shale Mine shaft), Katoomba. The Golden Stairs up to the 1st Narrow Neck are reported in good condition. The Sunday's walk, Ernie French led 14 (8 members, 6 prospectives) down Glenbrook Gorge up to the Nepean Lookout, Euroka and back to Glenbrook. Ern reports that scrub along the Glenbrook Gorge tops is heavy after several wet seasons.

At Easter the Nattai walk programmed was cancelled but the Annual Safari to the Castle Area, conducted by Bill Rodgers, brought out a party of 21. The Route was from Jerrickmorra Creek via Corang Peak to the Roswaine, Renwick and The Castle and return. Over Easter, too, Wilf Hilder took a small party on a Tiger Walk from Hill Top down the Nattai, over the Beloon Gap (Travis' Pass), over the Wollondilly and up to Yerranderie, then south via Mt. Colong and New Yards Creek back to the Wollondilly and finally through Bullio and High Range to Mittagong. Wilf commends it as a long but very scenically attractive walk, with a good cycloramic view from High Range just off the Wombeyan Caves Road.

Quite a few members camped over Easter with the N.P.A. party near Kanangra, doing day trips from the Base Camp.

Will reported on the 19 to 21st April the programme trip was revised as a trial 3-peak trip, but as his starters didn't attend, he "went-it-alone" with a 15lb pack and breaking several time records. John Luxton's Saturday walk April 20-21) with 7 members and 2 prospectives was Blackheath - Perry's - Blue Gum - Luckley Pylon - Louisa. The party confirms that the fire trail has been extended from the Pinnacles Area to Mount Hay. Seven members, 9 prospectives and 1 visitor formed Ron Knightley's day walk on 21st - Warrimoo Road - Cowan Creek - Perry Hills - St. Ives. Many fire trails now penetrate the area; the Roach Trig track is one, and there is a bulldozed track along the left bank of Bare Creek - this should not be followed where it goes up a ridge as it leads back to St. Ives Showground.

Very wet conditions on April 27-28 disrupted walking plans. Bill Ketas' week-end walk was cancelled and so was the mid-day Saturday trip. Ross Wyborn led a 3 peaks reconnaissance, altered to a Splendour Roach trip. The two walkers on the trip used caves on the West side of Mt. Dingo and reported tracks were awash. David Ingram with 8 would-be starters for the day walk confessed that the weather was just too much and didn't leave Heathcote station.

At the conclusion of the reading of the Walks Report, Bill Cosgrove, explaining that he didn't often get in for meetings, expressed astonishment that anyone wanted to curtail reading of the report.

In the Federation Report we were reminded that the Search and Rescue Practice would be held on 17-20-21 July and the rest was "tabled".

Eddie Stretton had proposals for two Theatre Parties, one to Orpheus in the Underworld" and the other, at Frank Ashdown's suggestion to "Lady Audley's Secret". A show of hands gave prima facie evidence of enough starters to justify making plans. Coming to General Business the President told us of the creation of a sub-committee to look into the Club's financial affairs: the maturing of a parcel of Bonds this year made it desirable to consider the whole structure of the Club's funds and investments. The members of the Sub-committee were Gordon Redmond, Fred Kennedy and Alex Colley, plus President and Acting Secretary (ex officio).

Frank Ashdown wanted to know (a propos of the resolutions on reading the Walks Report) whether there was any limitation on motions rescinding previous resolutions. The President advised that, apart from certain features defined in the Constitution we could continue with our clean innocent fun of making and breaking resolutions at will.

Publication of the Bushwalker Annual was announced and Oct Butler told us to buy and buy until it hurt - Federation must make a financial success with this edition.

Kath Brown drew attention to the subscription rates published in the notice of list of officers and said several figures were wrong. The married couples should be £3, not £3.10.0, the non-actives should be 10/- each, irrespective of age, and the magazine subscription when retained in the Club, was also 10/-. The Treasurer said he was only accepting the correct amounts and returning any surplus money received, but it was resolved to issue an amended list with the next general circular issued. Jack Gentle suggested that the circulars should be signed with the name of the Secretary, not merely initials.

Wilf Hilder said he had a letter from a Mr. Jamieson, containing an outline of walking trips he considered suitable for scouting parties. Wilf expressed the view that the notes as received were somewhat inadequate and possibly misleading and he asked assistance in revising them.

Then, with the clock standing at 9.25 p.m, those old faithfuls, Gentle and Rodgers undertook Room Stewarding and we closed down.

Letters to the Editor.

Keen Motorists All.

Several of your correspondents have inferred from my letter in the March magazine that I don't like motor cars. In this they are right, but they need have no fears that I will bore them with my reasons for this pre-Cambrian attitude. To cast aspersions on the wonderful machine that is the backbone of our economy, keeps us all working to pay for it, fills our hospitals, and best of all, saves us from walking, would seriously deplete the circulation of the magazine. As we need a new typewriter, this wouldn't do. However, whether we like motor cars was not the point at issue. "Curious Headhunter" asked what had happened to the mainstay of the magazine - accounts of walks. I replied that there were two reasons for this - that there is nowhere to walk, and that Club members, like everyone else, prefer motoring. I didn't say this was a bad thing - just stated it as a fact. If it was not a fact it could easily have been disproved by a few good articles on recent walks. But only the cries of wounded motorists were raised in response. "Disassembling Hot Rod" offered business advice and speculated on the views of my ancestors. As to business the first thing to learn is to mind your own, and as to ancestors, mine may well have occupied a larger cave than his. One thing is clear - he is glad to have avoided that "4 or 5 hour scrub bash to the Kowmung from Kanangra". Why he wants to get to the Kowmung, I can't understand. Surely, having avoided the "scrub bash", he doesn't intend to clamber along that awful rough river gorge?

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Donald Bryson Taylor tells us that there is good walking country the other side of the Kowmung. So there is, at any rate for short walks, but whether, having travelled so far and back by car, you have been for a drive or a walk, is a matter of opinion.

"Hitchhiker" quotes the taxation paid by motorists. Is he inferring that motoring, unlike drinking (taxation £120,136,000) or smoking (taxation £79,074,00), and other pleasures, should not bear its share of taxation? Since "Hitchhiker" is pleased to let car-owners bear his motoring costs, he should be glad that they help pay his taxes too.

Nobody has yet said they would rather walk than drive.

Alex Colley.

Sydney Bushwalkers' Young Folks.

Members may be interested in the progress to date on the formation of a S.B.W. Young Folks' Group.

The proposal to form such a group has been put forward in the past, but there was no general agreement and no action was taken. It was discussed again more recently by a few of the older members during the Annual Reunion in March. Subsequently, an article on bushwalking appeared in one of the daily newspapers, possibly stimulated by the recent movements abroad (President Kennedy, etc) to improve health by walking. As a result of this article, about 120 letters were written to the Editor of the newspaper by folk interested in taking up bushwalking. 62 of these were young folk between the ages of 12 and 15.

These letters were given by the Editor of the newspaper to Heather Joyce and replies were sent. The young folk were invited to a meeting at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17. There were no replies and none of the young folk arrived.

In spite of this setback we are convinced that there is a demand for a Young Folks' group, especially by the children of older members. We are considering the possibility of beginning with them and arranging a few weekend camps with them, as a trial. It would be appreciated if members with children in the appropriate age-group would give some thought to this and let us know their views, either privately or at a Club Meeting.

Irene Pridham.

Reg. Meakins.

Extract from letter by Joan and Frank Rigby as they continue their wander around the world. Austria. March, 1963

Well, here we are in Lech, in the Arlberg region of Austria - this is a real ski paradise if ever I saw one. In fact, the whole village exists almost solely for skiing. It is not a very big place but I would estimate that there are over 1,000 skiers here. Lech lies in the bottom of a valley at about 4,500 feet, surrounded by magnificent slopes and mountains on all sides - and there's snow, snow, snow! In fact, about 5 feet or more on the ground. Our bed and breakfast guest house sits up on a slope above the main part of the village and from our windows it looks like a fairy-tale place, especially at night. The hotels, pensions etc. are set out at random and with a thick layer of snow on the roofs you can imagine how pretty it all looks. There are no fewer than 10 lifts starting from the village or on the higher slopes (2 cable cars, 2 chairlifts, 6 T-bars) and by taking a cable car and then skiing down to the next village of Zurs, one has access to 6 or 7 more lifts and it is possible to do a big circuit back to Lech. Get in a bus and ride 20 minutes or so and you have St. Anton and another great batch of skilifts. Of course all these lifts open up a terrific variety of ski terrain and take one up near the tops of the mountains - as some of them are quite long and gain up to 3,000 feet in altitude, the downhill runs are really worthwhile and may take $\frac{1}{2}$ hour or more to do. There is a big ski school here with dozens of instructors and to see the army of skiers assembling twice a day is an impressive sight. Classes range from 6B (beginners), then 6A, 5B, 5A etc. through to 1A. We are in 5A so you see we have a long way to go by these standards (but you should see the 1's and 2's) There are two 2-hour periods of instruction each day (mainly exercises in the morning and free skiing with the instructor in the afternoons, each 2-hour lesson costing about 6/- Aust.) We find lifts cost us about 18/- Aust. per day - sounds expensive, I suppose, but that's skiing. As for food! We have our evening meal out at a restaurant or hotel - we have found a couple of places which serve the kind of food that I didn't think possible. Austrian cooking at its best is terrific, I can't say more. From all this you will have gathered that we are strictly downhill skiers at the moment - this is our spot of luxury for two short weeks. Depending on weather conditions etc. we may do a week's touring using the A.A.C. (Austrian Alpine Club) huts but this can be difficult without a guide, apparently. Failing this we're going to Innsbruck to see if we can do some cheap skiing based on the Youth Hostel there.

But back to us - from Austria, we're off to Rome where we aim to buy perhaps a Vespa G.S. - tour parts of Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Scandinavia, back to Britain (about 1st July) for six weeks or so, then back through Europe (a week's walking in the Swiss Alps) to Greece, Lebanon, through to India, all on the scooter (we hope!) Hope to be back to Aussie by Christmas. If it comes off it should be great fun.

Joan and Digby.



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NORTHWARD BOUND.

Denise Hull.

For those contemplating a trip to Cairns and wondering about ways and means the following may be of interest.

It is 1,753 miles from Sydney to Cairns and May to October - the dry season - the best for travel. The five means of locomotion available - walking, car or air being ruled out by lack of energy, lack of a vehicle and lack of money - other means were investigated. These were - by train - a surprisingly cheap trip - £14.10.0 single for the 3 days, or alternatively, what should be a most interesting trip by cargo boat from Brisbane to Thursday Island. £23 (one way) in a 3 berth cabin and all found for 11 days. Calling at several ports en route and through the lovely Whitsunday Passage. J. Burke & Co. of South Brisbane provide all particulars to 12 months ahead of the monthly sailings. If sailing times had been opportune would have chosen this way myself as it sounded most interesting. An overnight coach trip from Sydney would probably be the cheapest way of picking up the ship in Brisbane.

On the Railway, breaks of journey are allowed in both States provided the whole journey is completed in one month of commencing and the fare is the same by the North Coast or by New England and Wallangarra.

The train reaches Brisbane at midday and the Sunlander leaves that night and provides a comfortable berth in a 3 berth cabin both nights but no bedding on the second class sleepers. Air conditioned, iced water, and free hot showers are available in each carriage and H. & C. water in basins in each cabin. A dining car was attached to the 14 carriage train, but a pkt. of vita weet biscuits, butter, cheese, nescafo and tongala and fruit provided my meals with a thermos of hot water for 3' at the various R.R.R. (2/- if tea so take own tea) A hot meal - 3 courses for 3/6 on the second night held me together. Sandwiches are 10' a ½ sandwich on Queensland R.R.R.

Points of interest on route - being unexpectedly farewelled at Hornsby by Bill Cosgrove off on his mid-week walk - Berowra way. "What no rucksack" said Bill eyeing my decorous luggage - almost felt I was letting the side down. While staying at Walcha - the opportunity of rereading with greater appreciation after meeting him - Heinrich Harrer's "7 Years in Tibet."

The perusal of the Hastings and Dorrigo Military maps (4m to 1") with an eye for the possibility of someone (not me) walking from Apsley Falls near Walcha to Kempsey - 60-80 miles as the crow flies. Enquiries would probably show some timber tracks through the 40 odd miles of jungle country my friends think.

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The perusal en route of the Q'ld Railway Timetable. A fascinating source of information for 1/-. Corpses carried at 10' a mile - no transistors allowed on Brisbane suburban trains (no mention of country areas, but not a peep did I hear from one in 1200 miles in Q'ld). Quadruple cycles??? 4 times rate of ordinary cycles. Gold - treble ordinary parcel rate. List of protected birds and animals (and incidentally various posters at all stations from the Government Fauna and Flora Protection Board). Canberra regarded for Railway purposes as a "station in N.S.W.!!") and of great interest to Bushwalkers and others - the times and fares of all motor coaches and mail cars running from the various railheads throughout the State - it all made fascinating reading and scope to plan trips per rail and coach even to the Gulf country.

While in Brisbane was most fortunate in meeting Dr. Vickery of the Flying Doctor Service - a very alive and interesting personality.

The country north of Brisbane very green with frequent flood areas - at Rockhampton the train fascinated me as it trotted down the centre of one of the main streets, through miles of young sugar cane - a paddock full of hundreds of conical ant nests - and hundreds of miles of completely uninhabited country!!!

And last, but not least - my fellow travellers - No. 1 cabin mate - a garrulous woman anxious to tell all and sundry the story of her life. I left her to No. 2 to say yes and no in the right places while I perused "Lady Chatterley's Lover". Great excitement after we left Townsville when No. 2 found that No. 1 had purloined all her money - about £3 before she alighted at Townsville. So we were duly interviewed by the Police at the next stop. Life is not without its little excitements.

Cairns - I haven't seen it - its still raining! 7 inches since I arrived.

COLOUR SLIDE COMPETITION

The results of the annual colour slide competition will be made known on July 31. Members are invited to submit slides - a limit of 6 per member - by Wednesday July 17. Hand them to Edna Stretton. Slides must be initialled to facilitate return. There will be no categories. The judges will be Bill Rodgers, Malc. McGregor and Arthur Gilroy.

FEDERATION REPORT APRIL 1963Kedumba Pass Road Closure.

Apparently it was the Lands Department who recommended protest against the proposed closure of this road. Their reason for so doing is not known.

Search and Rescue.

The question of press coverage for S. & R. activities was discussed. Mr. N. Melville said that in his opinion bad coverage was the fault of the parties themselves and that a better liason was needed. Exercise week-end is to be held July 19-21 of this year.

Conservation.

Proposed additions to the Blue Mountains National Park were outlined. Proposed additions to the Boyd National Park were also outlined.

National Parks Association.

Reported that the National Park Act was now drafted but not yet public. Expressed their pleasure at the fine response to their request for letters on the Kosciuszko Parks Area.

Federation Ball.

The Ball Committee was elected for 1963.

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DOWN KANANGRA GORGE AND WHALANIA CHASM.

Dot Butler.

The three cars with their 17 passengers reached Kanangra Walls on Friday April 5, about midnight, more or less. The "less" applies to the cars belonging to Stan Madden and Duncan, whose occupants smartly hopped down and bagged the best sleeping places in the cave. The "more" applies to Bruce Withers' Vanguard which had developed a puncture on the way, which meant putting on the spare wheel, and a further delay vainly trying to get petrol when Bruce discovered his tank getting low. Bruce has only been out from England two months and had not yet learned that petrol stations in this country can be few and far between, and the occupants aren't always at home to be knocked up at midnight to dispense petrol. In some trepidation with the tank registering E for empty, we wound round the steep descent to Jenolan Caves House. Getting petrol at Caves House seemed a forlorn hope at that hour of the night. The place was in utter darkness except for a light around the back which, on closer inspection, proved to be the toilets. No amount of ringing on the front door bell produced results. Just when we were giving up hope, a car arrived bringing a couple of late guests for Caves House. The driver, an ex-bushwalker, offered to give us petrol from his tank. Just then, however, the elderly factotum of the Hotel opened the front door and agreed, after escorting his guests upstairs, to sell us 10 gallons and so the situation was saved and we sped on our way, to bed down beside the rest of our party in the cave, as I said before somewhere on the "more-ish" side of midnight.

The leader, that is to say, myself, got the party up at daybreak and even lit a fire to urge the tardy ones out of the sack. Jenny Madden and her three little boys stayed behind to entertain themselves around the tops, and the other 13 of us were ready to take off at 7.30 a.m., beautifully unhampered with nothing but our lunches, a box of matches and two 120 ft. nylon ropes, to descend the whole length of Kanangra Gorge and return via Murdering Gully in a day.

We made across the plateau to Kanangra Falls, visible less than a mile away. The Falls make a spectacular 500 ft. drop down sheer granite walls into a deep gorge, and the water then flows down over a series of 5 or 6 more falls in its incredibly steep descent to Kanangra Creek, nearly three thousand feet below. The weather was magnificent -- a change from the weeks of continuous rain we had been having, and the amount of water pouring over the falls was a sight worth seeing.

A very steep gully on the near side of the top falls seemed to offer a possible descent route, so we set off, the young Butler twins, Wade and Norman, leading off like a couple of young hunting dogs that have just spotted their prey. The rest of the party strung behind, clinging to bushes to break the speed of their progress and being careful not to dislodge loose bits of the mountainside onto the heads of those below, and before very long we were all reunited in the spray at the foot of the falls. A

little bit further along we looked like being baulked by a very steep drop into a hanging gully, so we sidled round to our left and climbed over a kind of saddle on a huge isolated gendarme. This put us into a secondary gully which led us steeply down till we were within view of the historic waterfall and rescue route where young Dick Donoghey was brought out after the accident last year.

The party perched on top of a rock ledge where the stretcher had been laid while the leader gave an illustrated address, as it were, of incidents that had happened during the rescue: "Over the area of steep faces and gorges we are about to descend we used a thousand feet of nylon rope to bring the stretcher case and the forty two helpers to safety. In addition we used slings and carabiners and rock pitons and eye-bolts, and every bit of this machinery was necessary." Having thus worked ourselves up to the right pitch of caution we heard a faint call from below, and there way down in a pool below the waterfall are Wade and Norman having a swim. They had swarmed down over the moss and succulent vegetation growing on the lizard-ledges of the near-vertical wall and were already down.

Lucy, who had sought to follow, found that weighing more than the boys' 5 stone has its disadvantages, and there she was spreadeagled over a bit of vertical cliff-face, clinging on to an insubstantial succulent, calling out to be rescued. We promptly threw her down a rope, and down this the rest of the party went to the ledge below, then we tied two 120 ft. ropes together and abseiled down these to the top of a scree slope. A scramble down this brought us to the pool where the young lads were having their swim.

Another two or three waterfalls on a par with the one we had just passed made us realise what good judgement (or good luck) the rescuers had shown last year in deciding to bring the injured boy out by climbing up the gully instead of down. It would have been three times as difficult and taken ten times as long to bring him out via Murdering Gully.

By 11.30 we seemed to have passed all the difficulties, so we settled down on a nice sun-warmed heap of loose rocks and had lunch. Then we sauntered on to Kanangra Creek by 12 o'clock, found some nice swimming holes, and swam and sunbaked and slept for an hour or so before setting off up Murdering Gully to the tops. The normal way, of course, is straight up the creek, but I had suggested, rather as a joke, that those who felt like it could go straight up the new landslide which has appeared just under "the most photographed rock" at Kanangra, and thence up the crack behind the rock to gain the tops.

We toiled up the steep sides of Murrdering Gully in the afternoon heat, in small parties of twos and threes, all taking our own time. Those of us who reached the top first went round to the look-out rock to see how the others were progressing. We could see some small, ant-like figures down

among the bushes but could not distinguish who they were. Suddenly, out of the crack at our feet, appeared two boys with the seat out of their pants. They had come up the "quick way", chimneying up the crack. And what do we see down below, but Duncan and prospective Peter Cameron who have followed in their small wake. This posed a problem. A rope would be necessary to get them up, but we up top didn't have one. Snow had not yet appeared with his rope, and Duncan down there had the other one. Norman solved the problem by climbing half way down the crack again and lowering about 50 ft of cord, onto which Duncan tied the rope. We hauled this up, and then Stan and Geoffo took it in turns belaying up the boys below and so the day's trip ended, at about 4 p.m. It was a great achievement for the three prospectives, Jim, Alan and Peter, and we have assured them it will be counted as a Test walk.

We now proposed to go back to the cars, pack in our gear, and return along the Kanangra Road to the turn off to Whalan's Clearing or "the pea farm". This is situated just 2 miles off the main Kanangra Rd. and is an ideal camping spot for a party planning to go down Whalania Chasm. We would have nice time to get there and have tea before dark, and so be ready for an early start the following morning.

Next day we followed the fence of the pea farm to the end of the clearing then kept to the low country skirting the swamps till the sound of a waterfall on the right was heard and we were at the entrance to Whalania Chasm.

We slid down the hillside, densely covered with water vegetation and tree ferns, then followed down the creek to the next high waterfall; a distance of perhaps a mile. Here, although it was only about 10.30, we had lunch, then left packs and shoes and everything and down we went on a glorious rock-hop, over falls, down rocky water-worn terraces, along rock viaducts deeply worn by centuries of coursing water till we came to the rock-slide to end all rock slides. It is about 50 or 60 ft. high, and the water cascades over it in a continuous cover three or four inches deep, then falls into a deep pool. By the time we got here we decided there was no need to go any further. The junction with Davies Canyon was less than an hour away, but it would be much more pleasant spending the next couple of hours sliding down the water chute. Those who had costumes put them on, and those who didn't have costumes slide in their underpants. We started off from a point about a third of the distance above the pool, but as courage increased the distance got higher and higher till Wade, Norman, Geoff, Snow, Duncan and Dave were going right from the top, wading out into the middle of the waterfall, sitting on their haunches, and then sailing away over the curve like you see clay pigeons behaving in a shooting gallery. Stan and I, after one try, sat nursing a bruised behind (each our own) and gave the others verbal encouragement, while the three prospective lads, thinking no doubt "We've had a fair trot ... tossed down steep gullies ... hurled over waterfalls ... dragged through impenetrable scrub ... tripped over monkey vines ... led through nettles ... slid down mud slides... we'll just sit here in the sun and take our pleasure in a more moderate fashion as spectators," and so they did.

After a couple of hours of this sport, it now being 2 o'clock, we started back up the Chasm, and were back at the pea farm at 4.30. Here we left the Madden family having tea, while the rest of us sped homeward through the gathering dusk, stopping off for the best meal in the mountains at La Boheme, Blackheath.

Here the story should rightly end, with everyone returning home to their snug beds at a reasonable hour. But alas, we can't oblige with such a story-book ending. About three miles short of Parramatta, just as Geoff and I were pressing on Bruce the merits of his returning to Dee Why (a) via Central Station, which would be most convenient for Geoff, ("I have to start work at 7.30, remember!") or (b) via Hornsby, which would be most convenient for myself and the boys (who have to get some sleep and then get up early in the morning to finish their homework, poor little fellows), suddenly the car began to wander all over the road, and, yes, you've guessed aright, we found we had a puncture. So the Fates decided the question for us. We rang for a taxi, put Lucy and Geoffrey into it and waved them off to Parramatta station to get the train back to Central, and also Bruce with his deflated tyre to get off at the nearest garage a mile away and effect repairs, while the little boys got into their sleeping bags and bedded down on the back seat of the jacked up car and Dave and I sat on a box outside a fruit shop eating apples and watching the hands of the clock go round. An hour or so later Bruce appeared through the gloom, bowling his tyre up the footpath. He and Dave put it on, then we were off again in a homeward direction.

WILD LIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY. JUNE 17 - Meeting.

Report by Mr. H.J. Stanley, Administrator of Parks and Reserves in N.S.W. on the "First World Conference on National Parks", at which he was the official representative of the Commonwealth as well as Delegate from the W.L.P.S.

SCIATICA STRIKES.

Frank Leyden's Easter walk went precisely according to plan with one minor exception - Frank wasn't on it! A bout of sciatica had laid him low, and changed him overnight to a strictly armchair strategist.

(Actually, the party was halfway down Mumbadah Creek before it was discovered that Frank was missing). Alex Colley filled the role of navigator, raconteur, whip-cracker and camp-site selector with a zeal and efficiency that would have made Frank proud, even jealous. Thanks to Frank's carefully laid plans and intensive initial research everyone present, nine in all, had a thoroughly enjoyable walk. (Cunninghams, Mumbadah Crk - Harry's River, Cox River - Kanangra Gorge - Kanangra Creek - Mt. Danae - Kanangra Tops.)

JUNE DAY WALK GUIDE.

- June 16 Bowen Mt. - Burralow Ck. - Grose R. - Cabbage Tree Cr. - Bowen Mt.
12 miles Rough.
This trip provides an excellent opportunity for a good test walk. The country to be traversed is outside the "popular" area and will provide good views in the Grose River area as well as a variety of vegetation and undergrowth. This walk will certainly test one's walking and rock-hopping ability. Private transport will be used so see the leader well in advance to ensure accommodation.
Windsor Map (Military) Leader: Bill Burke - WM5617.
- June 23 Engadine - Kangaroo Cr. - Peach Tree Trig - Uloola Falls - Hacking River - Flat Rock Crossing Audley. 13 miles medium.
If you would like to explore the Royal National Park, come along on this walk. The excursion is of test walk standard and an excellent fore runner to a weekend trip. Ridge and river walking with vegetation from lowscrub to heavy timber. Port Hacking Tourist Map. Fares - 5/6 return for train - Return ticket to Engadine - 7.50 am. Electric from Central - Change at Sutherland for rail motor (8.32 a.m.)
Leader: Gordon Redmond - FY4980.
- June 30 Waterfall - Uloola Falls - Audley - Ferry to Cronulla.
8 miles Easy.
A good introduction to walking with a pleasant ferry trip to complete the day. Good track walking along ridges and creeks of Royal National Park. Port Hacking Tourist Map.
Fares: Train return to Waterfall 6/-. Single. Cronulla to Sutherland 1/1. Total 7/1. Ferry approx 3/-.
8.50 a.m. Electric from Central change at Sutherland to rail motor (9.32 a.m.)
Leader: Dick Child - LLO411 Ext. 66. (business)

SOCIAL PROGRAMME - JUNE.

The social programme for June offers two most entertaining nights. On 19th Alan Rigby will be showing us some slides which will introduce to some members and reintroduce to others, glimpses of our beautiful walking country. Such names as Buddawang, Kanangra, Kowmung and the Wild Dogs, to mention only a few, will be old favourites to some and to others they will provide avenues of exciting discovery. We have seen snippets of Alan's work on general slide nights and are now looking forward to spending a little more time with him while he takes us along our most cherished trails.

Mr. Ben Nurse will introduce a diversion on 26th when he will present an illustrated lecture on caving. Most members are interested in this aspect of walking and although only a small section actually indulge in this type of recreation all will thoroughly enjoy what Ben has to say and show.

SCIENCE NATURALLY.

S.N. has been appearing in this magazine for about 15 months and in that time your Editor has received no criticism of it, no comment about it and no contribution for it apart from an odd snigger around a campfire.

It was with something akin to a delirium of joy therefore that a letter was recently received, obviously in direct response to S.N. We now feel a bit like the mother duck when it first saw the ugly duckling. It's not quite what we wanted, but it's the best we can do....

"Sir,

re - The Descent of Parnassus.

I was expecting to read Science Naturally. And then on two successive pages ... 'Discovery of authentic examples should be reported immediately to Mr. McCarthy of the Anthropological section....' Not Senator McCarthy. I know what sort of authentic examples he was after. Does the Anthropological Department contain the clue. A live, or dead (what does it matter) editorial assistant. Collatus erroneus. No, no. The turgid phrasing must indicate something much more menacing than that. The Australian Museum is to go to action stations as soon as an authentic sighting is reported so 'that steps may be taken immediately to protect it as far as possible from damage by vandals and stray stock.'

Really it is time I feel that we should turn to the classics of our common language to purify ourselves. If we are to be scientific let us express ourselves in an exact language. If not in the tone of the King James Version let us employ the same grammar to avoid authentic examples of ellipsis, solipsis, tautology, change of tense, number and sex.

I do not imagine that Henry Miller has met the sub-family Macropodinea even though he wrote The Tropic of Capricorn. I venture to say he would disagree with the science correspondent as violently as he disagrees with the Boston censor. Stockily built bodies haunting the rough mountain ranges for many generations. Sir, those are my fellow walkers.

Unless of course the paragraph was intended as an agent-provateur to bring in paragraph sized contributions. If this is so I offer the following quotations culled from a lifetime of unscientific reading. (Many times I found I was without a food party or from necessity had to cook my own food. On such occasions being naturally unsocial I cooked with canned heat or such in the privacy of my tent and read by the light of a candle. The volumes were slim, the less ribald ones always are. The Decameron or the other hard covered, banned ones were too bulky.

Very often the words were very apt. I report some authentic examples -

SYDNEY WEATHER. Oh, this awful quench. Dante.

Why didst they promise such a beauteous day
And let me travel forth without my cloak.

Shakespeare.

EDITORS. Pity and Irony. That's what we'll give them.

Hemingway.

REUNIONS. I have a little brandy, the stranger said.

Grahame Green.

NAVIGATORS. Twice hot and twice cold. Chaucer.

A few vultures looked down with shabby indifference;
he wasn't carrion yet. Grahame Green.

One can always eat dogs. Nansen.

Sir, inform Mr. McCarthy I will stand guard over the Australian Museum the moment vandals or stock approach it.

Shackleton.

CHINESE PHILOSOPHY

Kath McKay.

Hilaire Belloc once contributed to "The New Statesman" a Chinese Tabloid of Moral Philosophy, consisting of the Nine Nines, or Novenas; the Seven Sevens, or Septets; the Three Threes, or Triads, the Two Twos, or Pairs; and the One Thing of Good and Evil Effect (which, incidentally, is Honour Preserved). The following, although compiled for ordinary mortals, might be of interest also to bushwalkers.

THE NINE NEGATIVE RULES FOR WALKING IN THE COUNTRY.

- Not to fear beasts.
- Not to walk without an object.
- Not to become self-conscious when another approaches.
- Not to hasten or linger but to adopt a dull stride
- Not to avoid trespass
- Not to avoid mud
- Not to avoid hills
- Not to brood on trouble
- Not to walk when you can ride, drive, or be carried.

MAY FEDERATION REPORT

Correspondence included a letter of appreciation from the police for the assistance given them by the Search and Rescue Section of the Federation in the recent rescue of two scouters from Arethusa Canyon.

Treasurer's report revealed the sum of £661.7.2 in hand.

Search and Rescue section reported their plans for a S&R Demonstration Weekend to be held on October 21-22; possible site may be in the Webbs Creek area but this will be confirmed at a later date. The S&R Practice Weekend is to be held on July 19-21 at an undisclosed site; six parties willing to act as lost parties are needed. Other news included a letter from the Sky Divers Club (parachutists) offering their services to the S&R; we hope to arrange for them to drop in on our Demonstration Weekend.

Tracks and Axes reported that Korowall Buttress had now been made more safe and that the cave at the end of Clear Hill had been enlarged to sleep 12 bushwalkers in comfort. Fixing new chains and pitons at Carlons Head is in hand.

Publications Committee reported that the Bushwalker sales were going well and that the total cost should be about £400. The Federation Meeting moved a vote of thanks to the Publications Committee for their fine magazine.

Blue Mts. Parks Trust spoke of the proposed Glenbrook-Euroka Development Area; this is to consist of 3,000 ft of roads, dormitory type huts, toilets, sports area and refreshment store. The area is spread over 150 acres of land one mile south of the Glenbrook Creek Causeway. The meeting moved that a letter be sent to the Blue Mts. Park Trust deploring the choice of the site and offering to suggest a better site within the Blue Mts. Park. The Meeting also resolved to give £75 donation to the Blue Mts. Park Trust towards the cost of a shelter shed and concrete water tank at Flat Top Trig on the Mt. Hay road. Kanangra Walls markings on Mt. Seymour were also discussed and it was decided that Federation should write to the PMG enquiring about their plans for Kanangra Walls. Paul Barnes reported that the C'wealth Dept. of Works had already started exploratory drilling for a VHS Repeater Station on Woronora Trig. Shooting of native fauna at Boyd Tops was reported to the Meeting. It was decided to write to the Chair Guardian of Fauna as this area is within the Wildlife Sanctuary Faunal Reserve.

THE BUSHWALKER ANNUAL. Syncarpia.

As an armchair walker of long standing I eagerly devour anything written on walking, skiing, mountaineering and allied forms of adventure. Small wonder then that when the Bushwalker Annual awoke from its long sleep last year, I was tickled pink. After reading it several times, (once is never enough; these stories improve on acquaintance) I phoned Editor Geoff Wagg and congratulated him on his effort. He seemed grateful that someone had expressed enthusiasm, (Editors need a lot of encouragement for a thankless task).

Then a few weeks ago whilst window shopping at Paddy's, the "new" annual caught my eye, and here I found, was a full flavoured journal which lived up to the high standard set last year. Within its 48 pages there is a balanced blend of high adventure (a thrilling rope descent of Bungonia Creek, the epic Kanangra Gorge rescue, mustering in the snow in N.Z.) and anecdotes and stories full of the fun and philosophy of bushwalking. There are fine photographs and line sketches by Geoffrey W. I felt like phoning the editress to congratulate her, but damme, the unbreakable Dot Butler had fallen off some suburban sandstone cliff and was being patched up in hospital, so the best way to show our gratitude is to see that every copy of this year's annual is sold.